



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Public Works and Community Planning and
Economic Development**

Date: June 19, 2012

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral: Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee
Lisa Goodman, Chair Community Development Committee

Subject: **Reopening Nicollet Avenue at Lake Street**

Recommendation: Receive and file this report on implementation activities related to reopening Nicollet Avenue at Lake Street.

Previous Directives:

During the budget approval process in December 2011, City Council directed Public Works and CPED to create a Project Team comprised of representatives of CPED, Public Works, and Finance to advance the reopening of Nicollet Avenue at Lake Street. Activities of the Project Team to include: a) create defined project area; b) establish timeline, schedule, benchmarks; and c) design and implement community and stakeholder engagement. Staff is further directed to report back to CD and TPW committees by end of the first quarter 2012 on progress and with any recommendations.

Prepared by: David Frank, Director of Transit Development

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Jeremy Hanson Willis, Director of CPED

Reviews:

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Not Applicable
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan:	Not Applicable
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Not Applicable

Financial Impact

No financial impact.

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not applicable.

City Goals: Livable communities, healthy lives; Jobs & economic vitality Sustainability Targets: Economically vibrant and higher density transit corridors create attractive urban neighborhoods

for development, support efficient growth, and reduce the need for car travel to obtain necessary goods and services.

Comprehensive Plan: Policy 1.3. Ensure that development plans incorporate appropriate transportation access and facilities, particularly for bicycles, pedestrians and transit; Policy 1.5. Promote growth and encourage overall city vitality by directing new commercial and mixed-use development to designated corridors and districts; Policy 1.13. Support high density development near transit stations in ways that encourage transit use and contribute to interesting and vibrant places; Policy 1.16. Support a limited number of Major Retail Centers, while promoting their compatibility with the surrounding area and their accessibility to transit, bicycle and foot traffic; Policy 2.1. Encourage growth and reinvestment by sustaining the development of a multi-modal transportation system; Policy 2.3. Encourage walking throughout the City by ensuring that routes are safe, comfortable, pleasant and accessible; Policy 2.4. Make transit a more attractive option for both new and existing riders; Policy 3.2. Support housing density in locations that are well connected by transit, and are close to commercial. Cultural and natural amenities; and Policy 4.11. Attract businesses to the City through strategic infrastructure investments; Policy 10.9. Support urban design standards that emphasize traditional urban form with pedestrian scale design features at the street level in mixed-use and transit-oriented development.

Zoning Code: Not applicable

Background/Supporting Information

As directed by the Council, CPED, Public Works, and Finance have formed and convened a Project Team. We have met several times so far, and we will meet monthly for the rest of this year.

In addition to CPED, Public Works, and Finance, we have included representation from Communications, Council Members' offices, and the Mayor's office.

In our first meetings, we have created a defined project area (see attached), we have created a timeline with benchmark milestones (see attached), and we have designed a process for community and stakeholder engagement. We have also reviewed the applicable policy guidance for the surrounding area; reached out to the key property owners, tenants, and developers; and we are determining the necessary funding for the planning and design of the new street to be constructed.

Attachments:

Project Boundary Map

Project Milestones and Dates